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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 59th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 3 December 1991, at 10 a.m.

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This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

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(b) Report of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa

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(a) Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Draft resolution

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 16

APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

(a) LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (A/46/700)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.26)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly has before it in document A/46/700 a letter dated 21 November 1991 from the President of the Security Council to the President of the General Assembly. That letter reads as follows:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Security Council, at its 3017th meeting, held in private on 21 November 1991, unanimously adopted resolution 720 (1991) concerning the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The resolution reads as follows:

"'The Security Council,

"'Having considered the question of the recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

"'Recommends to the General Assembly that Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1996.'

"(Signed) Aurel Dragos Munteanu

President of the Security Council"

In connection with this recommendation of the Security Council, and following previous practice, I have the great honour to inform you that the General Assembly has before it a draft resolution submitted in document A/46/L.26 by Austria, Belgium, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, France, India, Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom

(The President)

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Yemen, Zaire and Zimbabwe. That is the only document before the Assembly on which action is required.

I now call on the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mr. Vorontsov, President of the Security Council, to introduce draft resolution A/46/L.26.

Mr. VORONTSOV (President of the Security Council) (interpretation from Russian): It is my honour and privilege, in my capacity as President of the Security Council, to address the General Assembly as it considers the recommendation of the Security Council on the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

At its 3017th meeting, held on 21 November 1991, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 720 (1991), which you, Mr. President, have just read out.

Pursuant to that unanimous recommendation of the Security Council, a draft resolution submitted by the members of the Council has been circulated in document A/46/L.26. I should now like to introduce the draft resolution on behalf of the members of the Council.

The draft resolution proposes that the General Assembly of the United Nations should appoint Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1992 and ending on 31 December 1996. In so recommending, the Security Council has taken note of the outstanding qualities of Mr. Boutros Ghali, Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt. Mr. Boutros Ghali is an experienced diplomat and eminent statesman. His qualities as a scholar of international repute, his sharp vision and scrupulous respect for the purposes and principles of the

(The President of the Security Council)

Charter of the United Nations which he has displayed throughout his long experience in the service of his country and in the cause of world peace and security are well known.

It is our conviction that, at a time when renewed efforts are required to strengthen the Organization further, the outstanding qualities of leadership demonstrated by Mr. Boutros Ghali will enable the Organization in the days ahead to rise to the challenge and find viable solutions to the problems confronting the United Nations.

As President of the Security Council, it is my hope that, in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly will adopt unanimously the draft resolution which the 15 States members of the Council have submitted to it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In view of the unanimous recommendation of the Security Council and in the light of the wish expressed by many delegations, may I take it that it is the desire of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/46/L.26 by acclamation?

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation (resolution 46/21).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I have the honour to announce that His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali has been appointed by acclamation Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1992 and ending on 31 December 1996.

(The President)

I invite the President of the Security Council, the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, the President of the Trusteeship Council, the Chairmen of the Main Committees, the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Registrar of the International Court of Justice to come to the platform.

The President of the Security Council, the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, the President of the Trusteeship Council, the Chairmen of the Main Committees, the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, and the Registrar of the International Court of Justice took places on the platform.

The Chief of Protocol escorted the Secretary-General-designate, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, to the platform.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Your Excellency, I have the honour to inform you officially that the General Assembly has appointed you Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office beginning on 1 January 1992 and ending on 31 December 1996.

I ask Mr. Boutros Ghali to repeat after me the oath of office.

Mr. BOUTROS GHALI (interpretation from Arabic):

I, Boutros Boutros Ghali, solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Secretary-General of the United Nations, to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Organization.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Your Excellency, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, it gives me great pleasure to express to you my most sincere congratulations upon the resolution just adopted by the General Assembly appointing you as Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a great

(The President)

statesman and a great academician. I am fully confident that on this occasion I speak for every member of the General Assembly. We welcome you most warmly and we wish you all success as you assume your great responsibility at a delicate juncture in the modern history of international relations and in an important stage of the work of the United Nations in the international arena. As I welcome you most warmly, I would like to express my personal satisfaction and that of the entire membership of the United Nations. I wish to assure you that we shall extend our full cooperation and support as the United Nations endeavours to discharge its constructive role for the benefit of the international community and the future of the whole world.

(spoke in English):

No time is more critical for the consolidation of peace on a durable basis in today's world than the near future we are facing. I am confident that your eminent qualities will provide us with the best chance for fulfilling the role of the United Nations in this respect.

May I wish you again, in the name of the entire membership, which will no doubt give you its fullest support, all the success and all the satisfaction of great achievement.

(The President))

I now invite His Excellency Mr. Boutros Ghali to make a statement.

Mr. BOUTROS GHALI (interpretation from Arabic): Allow me, at the outset, to extend to you, Mr. President, my most sincere thanks for the kind words you have addressed to me. I have been deeply touched by your kind thoughts and good wishes.

It was a source of deep satisfaction for me when the Security Council, in its resolution 720, unanimously recommended me as the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations. The unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution endorsing this recommendation is indeed a great honour for me.

On the personal level, I am grateful to each member of this august assembly. On the official level, I am equally grateful to every Member State of the United Nations that honoured me with this great trust. I am only too conscious of the magnitude of this task from this very moment.

I do not claim to elevate the vision of the Utopian city called for by the Islamic thinker Al-Farabi to that of a Utopian world, for I cannot promise to go beyond what is feasible and what is possible. Despite the close ties that bind me to optimism, my ties to realism are even closer.

In the name of every African, I wish to express appreciation for the opportunity afforded to Africa, through my election, to take part in the service of the international community. Africa feels ready to make its contribution by virtue of its creative ability and recent achievements in the international arena.

On the other hand, based on the premise of equal opportunity for all members of the family of nations and in a spirit that goes beyond mere equality and rises to the level of equity that should permeate the fibre of international relations, a true challenge has been presented to Africa.

(Mr. Boutros Ghali)

Needless to say, I see in my election a special appreciation for Egypt and recognition of the role she plays on the international scene. The fact that I belong to Egypt, an Arab African State that borders the Mediterranean Sea, which, throughout the ages has been a crossroads for many cultures and has been the crucible of civilization and religions, imbues me with the faith which every Egyptian wholeheartedly embraces, that is, faith in peace and security as a goal, in dialogue and negotiation as an approach and in harmony and cooperation as a hope.

It is my fervent desire as I discharge my duty to communicate this cultural legacy through mutual cooperation and to raise the banner of peace wherever there is underdevelopment, conflict and tension in the world.

There are many areas of tension, conflict and confrontation on the international scene, areas where blood has been shed, where human creativity is destroyed, and where the spirit of cooperation, integration and good neighbourliness faces grave challenges. There are also peoples that are still denied the exercise of their inalienable rights.

(spoke in English)

I should like to underline four basic issues which confront the international community as I see them:

First, there is the need to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in conformity with the Charter. This requires the strengthening of the United Nations machinery in a manner that will enable it to fulfil its important objectives not only in peace-keeping but in peace-making and in peace-building as well. In addition to this requirement there is the need for an active preventive diplomacy with a view to monitoring developments of crises and finding adequate means to defuse them and prevent their escalation.

(Mr. Boutros Ghali)

Secondly, there is the necessity to strive for the attainment of international economic development in all its aspects. It is my intention to address this issue with vigour in order to contribute to finding ways and means to narrow the gap between the rich North and the poor South. Tackling the crippling problem of international debt is central to achieving a healthy world economy. Equally important, issues of environment and development must be seriously addressed so as to stop any further deterioration of our planet.

Thirdly, I shall take with utmost seriousness my role as chief administrative officer of this Organization. It is imperative that the sole criterion to apply in the employment of men and women be the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. It is said that the United Nations is a mirror image of its Member States, and their counsel and support are essential if we are to meet the standards they rightfully expect.

(Mr. Boutros Ghali)

I welcome and will carefully study every proposal, from within and without this House, for streamlining our operations, eliminating what is wasteful or obsolete, and ensuring that the mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General are carried out faithfully, accurately and without delay.

I come to the post of Secretary-General inspired by the Charter and full of hope, faith and commitment - commitment to join with Member States, with the Secretariat and with the "peoples of the United Nations" in search of intellectual creativity, political imagination and dynamism to help our Organization meet the challenge of a rapidly changing world.

The vision of the Charter of the United Nations is as valid today, after the end of the cold war, as it was in 1945, before the beginning of the cold war. I call for the cooperation and assistance of all who can help to transform the noble objectives of the Charter into reality.

(spoke in French)

Fourthly, I wish to stress the United Nations role in strengthening fundamental freedoms and democratic institutions which constitute an essential and indispensable stage in the economic and social development of nations.

If there is no development without democracy, there can also be no democracy without development. Although it is difficult to determine whether to start with development in order to obtain democracy, or to begin democracy in order to obtain development, it is obvious that the guarantee of fundamental freedoms and the protection of the human rights of both men and women constitutes a prerequisite that the United Nations must promote.

That being said, we must not see democracy as a magic potion which will cure all ills. Nor must democracy devour its institutions and degenerate into ethnic or tribal conflicts that create a micronationalism which will hinder all development, peace and security.

(Mr. Boutros-Ghali)

Finally, United Nations activities to promote democracy must not become a means of intervention in the internal affairs of Member States.

We have mentioned the role of the United Nations in strengthening democratic institutions within Member States, and we must also stress the importance of democracy at the inter-State level. The democratization of international relations should complete and amplify the democratization of national institutions. This dual process can create a new dynamic for national peace and stability, which is as important as international peace and stability.

I should like to conclude this brief statement with three comments:

First of all, I wish to pay tribute to Javier Perez de Cuellar for his admirable achievements throughout a decade in the service of peace. I owe him my thanks for the wise and fraternal advice he has so generously given me and from which I shall continue to benefit.

Secondly, I wish to apologize for not speaking in Chinese, Spanish or Russian in order to relay this message to those who speak these official languages.

Finally, I wish to say, and to repeat to the international staff, to the representatives of Member States and to the heads of the specialized agencies that we shall work together to revitalize the United Nations, that we shall fight together for peace and security, that together we shall help our world Organization to face challenges of the twenty-first century.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Secretary-General designate for his statement and for the kind words he

(The President)

addressed to me. We have heard a comprehensive statement that reflects the personality of the great man we have just elected. I thank him again.

I now call on the Secretary-General.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL (interpretation from Spanish): I should like briefly to take this very happy occasion to express my deep satisfaction at the unanimous decision of the members of the General Assembly to appoint Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali Secretary-General of the United Nations. I am sure that on this occasion the Security Council and the General Assembly have a deep sense of mission accomplished.

I am enormously happy to be able to leave my delicate post in the hands of an Egyptian intellectual and diplomat of notable skill and courage who brings together experience, intelligence, maturity and dynamism, and who is at the same time endowed with the vision and the pragmatism that the United Nations needs during the present complicated times and in the times to come.

Furthermore, this wise election is recognition of the important role in the affairs of our Organization being played by three great communities, the African community, the Arab community, and the vast community of what has come to be known as the third world. Today's vote acknowledges not only the geopolitical importance of these communities and the justice of their yearnings and struggles but also their active and positive participation in the deliberations of all United Nations bodies.

(The Secretary-General)

I should also like to express my great joy at being able to hand over to my successor an Organization which is no longer on the sidelines, but which now finds itself at the hub of world affairs and whose credibility and great efficiency have now been established beyond any doubt. Only in one respect - financial insolvency, which is most assuredly not due to poor management - is the balance sheet negative, regrettably. The Organization that the new Secretary-General will administer is an Organization in a state of constant renewal, one which has a staff with notable idealism and competence.

It is well known that in the dynamics of international affairs the work to be done is never ending, but it can now be undertaken with the certainty that what is accomplished will be decisive for the stability and progress of all the countries of the world and for the well-being of their peoples.

In the coming days, the last of my tenure of office as Secretary-General, I propose to share with the General Assembly my thoughts about some of the matters which in these crucial times are of concern to the Organization and the international community. Therefore, I shall limit myself today to expressing to my distinguished successor my warmest wishes for his success, sure in the knowledge that with his recognized competence he will help illuminate the new era of international relations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I thank the Secretary-General. This wonderful applause from the Assembly to the Secretary-General's statement in the last month of his tenure of office is testimony to the warm regard in which he is held and the standing that the United Nations has attained in playing its role in today's world.

I shall now call on the Chairmen of the regional Groups to make statements on behalf of their Groups, and then the representative of the host country, following the election of our new Secretary-General.

(The President)

I call first on the Permanent Representative of Ghana, Mr. Kofi Awoonor, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. AWOONOR (Ghana): Permit me, Mr. President, on behalf of the Group of African States at the United Nations to congratulate you and the entire membership of our Organization, in particular the members of the Security Council, and specifically the Ambassador of India, my good friend Ambassador Chinmaya Gharekhan, and the Ambassador of Romania, my good friend Ambassador Aurel Dragos Munteanu, who presided over the Council during that critical period a few weeks ago when the Council conducted the election of the new Secretary-General.

As for Mr. Perez de Cuellar, we shall thank him and embrace him on the appropriate occasion.

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the African States that His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali has been able to join us on this occasion to consummate the resolution that elected him to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations. His appointment is a source of tremendous satisfaction to the international community in general and the continent of Africa in particular.

Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, an eminent and true son of Africa and a true internationalist, brings considerable diplomatic experience and knowledge to the United Nations. This will enable him to make our Organization more effective and meaningful, particularly at this critical period, when the crisis of global poverty is deepening and vast populations of our common planet live in misery and conditions that take away their basic humanity.

The historic recommendation by the Security Council of Mr. Ghali and the equally historic action by the General Assembly in approving that recommendation are a major victory for the United Nations and the principle of

(Mr. Awoonor, Ghana)

universality, equity and fairness. The Group of African States at the United Nations expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation to the entire international community.

I wish again on this solemn occasion to assure our new Secretary-General of Africa's unqualified cooperation and support in his future task.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the Permanent Representative of Kuwait, Mr. Mohammad Abulhasan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait) (interpretation from Arabic): It gives me great pleasure to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of Asian States on the occasion of the election of Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary-General of the United Nations. On behalf of the Asian Group and my country, I congratulate him on the confidence that has been accorded him and express to him our warmest best wishes. The United Nations is very fortunate to be led by a man with such competence, experience and loyalty as Mr. Ghali.

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

There is no doubt that credit is due to the African Group in taking the initiative for nominating the new Secretary-General as a natural exercise to benefit from the wealth of experience and the intellectual heritage available in that continent, but we should also note here that Mr. Boutros Ghali also belongs to the Asian, Arab philosophical, intellectual and political heritage and that he was influenced by and has influenced the Western human heritage. Mr. Boutros Ghali derives the source of his thought, the spring of his endowment and the foundation of his gift from the immortal heritage of his country, Egypt, whose roots extend deep into human civilization, Egypt, about whose contribution His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah said was "like its Nile River, ever-flowing and unrestricted".

The life of Dr Ghali is remarkable for the scholarly introduction of Asia and Africa to each other's cultures and traditions. Throughout his preoccupation with and specialization in international affairs, Mr. Ghali has been pursuing and promoting constructive dialogue between the two worlds of North and South. Being knowledgeable about Asian cultures, and being entrusted with its Arab and Islamic dimension, Mr. Ghali comes at a juncture in the history of the United Nations in which it needs his experience, farsightendess and horizons and aspirations for the future.

I say this about our new Secretary-General not just for what we know about him and his contributions in the general international arena, but also as one of many thousands of the sons of African, Asian and Arab peoples who were educated at his hands. I am indebted to him personally for treading this path which eventually brought me, thanks be to God, to represent my country Kuwait in this world organization.

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

As my professor, Mr. Ghali was, as he is now, articulate in his expression, disciplined in his presentation, clear in his thinking, objective in his approach, impersonal in his judgements, humble in his conduct, generous in his offering, whether as professor, writer, official, seasoned politician or veteran diplomat.

Against this backdrop, the Member States of the Asian continent expect from the new Secretary-General, while at the helm of the world organization, to make it one that is able to carry out more of the tasks entrusted to it by the Charter, and one that will be ready to adjust to the significant changes in the international arena, as well as enriching the basic fudamentals enshrined in the Charter, together with the elements of international legality. While the world is looking forward to a new era in which the United Nations is able to overcome its worsening financial and administrative problems, and to reconsider the administrative composition of the Organization we in the Asian Group are particularly expecting to see the qualifications that we have attributed to the new Secretary-General as the guiding and illuminating factors for the process of responding to the challenges imposed by the birth of the new world order. The international support for Mr. Ghali's task is strong proof of the urgent desire for the United Nations to become a safety valve in the era of rapprochement for the aspirations of the people of the developing countries and the countries' endeavours towards a creative peace in relations among them.

The assumption of this post by Dr. Ghali is evidence that the right man has been selected at the right time, and if we say that we wish him lasting success we do so because we wish to see our world organization continue to

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

serve the noble goals for which it was founded, namely peace with collective security and deterrence of aggression as well as freedom for the idividual and continuous development with social justice.

Achieving all that requires a leadership ability, experience and competence, and these are certainly found in Mr. Boutros Ghali, in exactly the same way as they are to be found in His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, who has led this world organization throughout the past ten years with the wisdom of a skilful captain, steering his ship through rough international tides and shifting world conditions with that composure, awareness and even-handedness for which the world hails him. The United Nations has, under Mr. de Cuellar, achieved qualitative transitions in the way it addresses international issues and world sources of conflict. The United Nations has benefited from and its Secretary-General has utilized the positive changes in international relations to solve intractable crises and disputes that raged on the ground as well as in the debates of the General Assembly and its committees. The United Nations has exercised under its current Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the role envisioned for it in its Charter, in defending and protecting rights with legitimate force and through the precepts of collective security and the deterrence of aggression, the upholding of the Charter's principles, as well as the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of members of the United Nations. Perhaps the experience of my country Kuwait will always remain a vivid example of the nature of challenges that have faced the United Nations under the leadership of Mr. de Cuellar and his methods of handling them. Also in his era, the role of peacekeeping forces in the world has so much expanded that it won the Nobel Peace Prize. The contribution of Mr. Perez de Cuellar in the

(Mr. Abulhasan, Kuwait)

service of the world organization and its goals will therefore remain a fountainhead which every future leader of this organization will tap for many years to come.

The Asian continent and the whole world are grateful and appreciative of Mr. Perez de Cuellar's contribution. His legacy will abide with us and our prayers will continue for his success and happiness. Our prayers, Mr. Secretary-General designate, for your success and we pledge you our unceasing support. To your predecessor, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, we extend our thanks and gratitude for maintaining this organization and for keeping its banner aloft.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the Permanent Representative of Belarus, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. BURAVKIN (Belarus) (interpretation from Russian): We have just witnessed an extremely important event, the administration of the oath of office to the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations.

As Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I should like to welcome Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary-General of the United Nations and extend to him our sincere wishes for every success in his new, distinguished and extremely difficult work.

We are all familiar with Mr. Boutros Ghali's outstanding qualities, and there seems to be no need to rehearse them in detail once again. He possesses a high degree of skill, political maturity and a sense of objectivity and responsibility. Today, in praising his remarkable personal qualities, which have won him this important post, we should like also to pay homage to his country, whose active participation in international affairs promotes progress towards the full realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

We are also gratified to see that the new Secretary-General has become the first representative of the African continent to be appointed to this responsible post. The election of a representative of Africa as Secretary-General has been the considered choice of all the countries represented in the General Assembly.

The election of a Secretary-General has always been an event of extraordinary importance not only for the Organization itself. The post

(Mr. Buravkin, Belarus)

is a particularly important and responsible one because it is global in nature. The Charter of the United Nations invests the Secretary-General with powers enabling him to play a historic part in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In the new circumstances prevailing in the world, that post takes on particular significance, since enhancing the authority and influence of the United Nations also enhances the role of its Secretary-General.

Today we have chosen for that role a man of great personal and professional experience, highly respected, hard-working and, we are sure, capable of responding expeditiously and appropriately to the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the world. His successes will be the successes of the Organization, and therefore, the successes of us all.

The countries of the Group for which I speak as its Chairman wish to assure the new Secretary-General of their sincere support and their desire to cooperate with him.

In welcoming the new Secretary-General, the Group of Eastern European States would also like to pay high tribute to the man who has been at the head of our Organization for ten years. In the eyes of the whole world he symbolizes the transition of the United Nations during that period to a new quality and new possibilities. That transition has been justly described by many as the renaissance of the United Nations.

As Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, I should like to thank Mr. Perez de Cuellar most sincerely and cordially for the work he has done, devoting his best qualities and his best efforts to the United Nations, and I wish him and Mrs. Perez de Cuellar many years of happiness and success in whatever endeavour he sets his hand to.

(Mr. Buravkin, Belarus)

Speaking now as the representative of the Republic of Belarus, I should like, on behalf of my delegation and of the Supreme Soviet and the Government of the Republic, to express our profound gratitude to Mr. Perez de Cuellar for the talent and energy he demonstrated during the very fruitful years of his work in the United Nations. The Belarusian people will never forget his efforts to organize international cooperation to render assistance to Belarus when it fell victim to the Chernobyl disaster, and we shall always be pleased to see him as a welcome guest in our country.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the Permanent Representative of Mexico, Mr. Montaño, who will speak on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. MONTAÑO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, it is my great honour to express our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali on his well-deserved election as the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations. The timely recommendation of the Security Council has gone to a son of Africa and a man with world-wide influence. His long personal and professional record fully identifies him with the defence and promotion of the interests of the developing countries and testifies to his ability to engage in a dialogue with the industrialized countries.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will unswervingly support the Secretary-General in whatever he does to meet one of the greatest challenges he will undertake in his new post: the persisting gap between the levels of development of the different countries of the world. A consummate

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

diplomat and a distinguished figure in Egypt's presence in the concert of nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali will undoubtedly contribute to the future well-being and development shared by all the peoples of the world.

The region that I represent derives special satisfaction from the appointment of the new Secretary-General because of his long record which identifies him with the concerns of our continent. He has been an advocate of a fruitful dialogue between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean and the many bonds which today exist between our countries have received his invaluable support.

The redefinition of concepts and principles will transform the view held thus far of the United Nations. The attainment of common objectives without losing our fundamental identity is a formidable challenge facing the new Secretary-General. He will also have to meet the still valid demand that the central concerns of our countries - such as the extreme poverty, the social development and the economic backwardness of the majority of peoples - should not be overshadowed by the so-called new issues on the international agenda.

Our region will continue to participate in the intensive process of reflection on the reform and revitalization of the structures and activities of the United Nations and to the improvement of our finances. The conditions prevailing in the world today require profound changes in our multilateral efforts and hence in the efforts of our Organization.

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

During his tenure, the United Nations will prepare to commemorate a half-century of existence. This will be an excellent opportunity to undertake a study of actions that will enable the Organization to meet new international challenges with formulas that could not have been conceived of in the atmosphere following the Second World War, when the constituent Charter of our Organization was drafted.

The countries of our region take special pride and satisfaction in thanking Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar for the invaluable work he performed during a fundamental decade in the history of our Organization. A man with deep Latin American roots, his universal calling enabled him to lead the United Nations through the murky labyrinth of intransigence and narrow-mindedness to an era in which there reigned a spirit of negotiation and understanding. Thanks to his efforts, the world has recovered its faith in the ability of the United Nations machinery to achieve peace, the Organization's primary task.

From the discouragement caused by the so-called crisis of multilateralism, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar was able to move dispassionately towards the adoption of effective and realistic measures to strengthen the Organization. His firm insistence on unrestricted respect for the principles of international law made it possible for the Organization to rediscover the strength of spirit of those who forged the San Francisco Charter.

Although it is true that the impressive achievement of the United Nations over the past three years are largely due to the end of the East-West conflict, it cannot be forgotten that Javier Perez de Cuellar has understood these changes and has guided our Organization to the rescue of its own identity. Testifying to this are the various regions of the world where

(Mr. Montaño, Mexico)

millions of human beings still have high expectations for the management, mediation or intervention of the United Nations and its Secretary-General, and for their ability to take action to find solutions. Latin America and the Caribbean recognize with admiration and appreciation his devotion and dedication, secure in the knowledge that his fight for the loftiest ideals of humanity will continue elsewhere.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of the Netherlands, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. VAN SCHAIK (Netherlands) (interpretation from French): It is my honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

I should like to extend through you, Mr. President, the most sincere and warm congratulations of my Group to the Vice-Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, on his election to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations. We are delighted to see this great son of Africa, whose reputation as statesman, diplomat and negotiator is known to all of us, at the head of the Organization for the five years to come.

This is the sixth time that the General Assembly has appointed a Secretary-General. Ten years already separate us from the first election of His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar to the post of Secretary-General. Under his leadserhip, the Organization has contributed significantly to the solution of the problems of international peace and security in times that were often very difficult. Thanks to the devotion of our present Secretary-General and to his talents as a negotiator, to his good offices and

(Mr. Van Schaik, Netherlands)

to his tireless efforts at mediation, the United Nations has put an end to numerous international conflicts and has taken on a new image.

But our purpose today is not to list the great accomplishments of the current Secretary-General. The General Assembly will have the opportunity to take its leave of him on another occasion. We are convinced that the newly elected Secretary-General will continue the work of the present one, His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the same devotion to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

In the course of the coming five-year period, during which the United Nations will be passing the half-century mark of its existence, the Organization will have to meet the great challenges posed by the development of international affairs. The general atmosphere of good understanding currently prevailing will make it possible for the United Nations to continue to play an important role in the search for solutions to the major international problems. We are convinced that, under the leadership of His Excellency Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations will discharge its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, economic and social development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and will meet the world's new requirements, such as the protection of our environment.

Our Organization is in a period of reform and revitalization. The election of His Excellency Boutros Boutros Ghali assures us that the United Nations, under his dynamic leadership, will effectively meet the demands of change made necessary by the growth of its role in today's world.

I should like to assure the Secretary-General designate, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, of our readiness to cooperate with

(Mr. Van Schaik, Netherlands)

him and to provide him with all necessary assistance, so as to contribute to the full success of his difficult mission.

(spoke in English)

Permit me to conclude by quoting from the scriptures of St. Matthew: "Out of Egypt have I called my son" (The Holy Bible, Matt. 2:15). Today, out of Egypt we have called Africa's son. He has now become our son - the son of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of Lebanon, who will speak on behalf of the Arab Group.

Mr. MAKKAWI (Lebanon) (interpretation from Arabic): It is a great honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of the Arab Group, which I chair for this month, and to express our pride and joy on the election of Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, a son of ageless Egypt, to the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The choice of Mr. Boutros Ghali for this important post is in accordance with the desires of Africa in particular and the developing countries in general to play a more significant part in international politics in our world. This election coincides with the major changes that are a feature of the current international situation and which affect international and regional relations. It is also an embodiment of the aspirations of our peoples to see the Organization play a more effective role in implementing the progress and development of those countries and in serving the cause of international peace and security.

Mr. Boutros Ghali combines the cultural heritage, the diversity of religion and the creative coexistence that have been characteristic of the Middle East throughout its long history. We are, therefore, confident that the wealth of humanitarian experience embodied in the Secretary-General will enable him to play a distinguished part in guiding the United Nations during this important stage in its history.

The importance, magnitude and diversity of the tasks of the United Nations at the threshold of the twenty-first century reflect the challenges that face humanity: the challenges of poverty, ignorance and backwardness,

(Mr. Makkawi, Lebanon)

the achievement of real disarmament, the protection of the environment for future generations, the conduct of international relations on the basis of international law and the maintainance of international peace and security.

We are confident that Mr. Ghali's outstanding qualities, his vision, his profound knowledge of international law and wealth of experience in international relations make him the right man in the right place. In other words, he is the man who is in the best position to help the United Nations face up to its increasingly important tasks in tomorrow's world.

The role of the United Nations in any new world order requires belief in and action for the application of the principles and the achievement of the objectives of the Charter, which were inspired by the tribulations of mankind in the past. The fact that the United Nations is playing an effective role in international relations once again is an encouraging positive sign. The Arab countries, which abide by those principles believe that the solution to many international and regional problems requires that a greater role be played by the United Nations and that excluding the United Nations will reduce its credibility and will threaten the balance of inter-State relations.

The peoples and Governments of Arab States are currently going through a period of hope and expectation at a time when peace talks are going on, whose purpose it is to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core issue, the question of Palestine. International legality, embodied in Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the other relevant resolutions, constitutes the foundation and the proper context for bringing about an enduring peace in our region.

(Mr. Makkawi, Lebanon)

It is the hope of small countries that the United Nations, under the guidance of the new Secretary-General, will become an effective factor of balance and a source of hope in the context of the changing international equations. To achieve this end, all the Member States should shoulder their responsibilities within their means and resources. The unanimous election of Mr. Boutros Ghali is a positive step in the context of the important changes that are currently under way.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation to the current Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, for his tireless efforts throughout his term of office and the important achievements of the United Nations under his leadership after it had been marginalized for such a long time because of the situation which prevailed during the years of the cold war. We wish him every success, health and happiness.

While extending our sincerest congratulations to Mr. Ghali on his election, we wish him every success in the performance of his immense duties and his important international tasks. May God guide his steps for the well-being and the prosperous future of mankind.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of the United States of America, the host country.

Mr. PICKERING (United States of America) It is a great pleasure and a distinct honour on behalf of the host country to welcome most warmly the appointment of Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations. He brings to the job the most distinguished credentials and

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

superb experience. He is Deputy Prime Minister of Egypt and has been deeply involved in the foreign affairs of his country for many years. He is a prominent international scholar and author. He has played a key role in African issues and in the Organization of African Unity. He has led Egypt's delegation to the United Nations for a number of years. He was a leading negotiator in the seminal Camp David Accords and he accompanied President Sadat on his historic trip to Jerusalem. As the United Nations approaches its fiftieth anniversary with a great sense of hope and renewed promise, we look forward to having his firm hand on the tiller to guide our course.

We have no doubt that Mr. Boutros Ghali will be a worthy successor to Javier Perez de Cuellar, our highly respected current Secretary-General. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar has our deepest gratitude and our sincerest admiration for his ceaseless efforts over the past 10 years to promote peace, security and economic and social development. His remarkable contribution, at a time of great trial in the United Nations, has brought our Organization firmly to the threshold of new opportunities and challenges. His wise and careful diplomacy has taught us all much. We could not have chosen a better person to deal with our Organization at the end of the cold war and to set the stage for the beginning of what we all hope will be a new era. The Secretary-General, the unanimous ovation you have just heard cannot even begin to express our appreciation to you.

For the United Nations and for the leadership of Mr. Boutros Ghali, there is as never before an opportunity to fulfil the purposes and the objectives of our Charter: the maintenance of international peace and security, the

(Mr. Pickering, United States)

development of friendly relations between nations, the promotion of social and economic prosperity, the achievement of international cooperation in solving the world's problems, the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental human freedoms and the opportunity to reform and reshape the United Nations to meet these challenging tasks for the decade ahead. We are confident that Mr. Boutros Ghali, building on Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar's exemplary work, has the skills and the talents needed to accomplish all of these objectives efficiently and effectively.

Our pleasure at Mr. Boutros Ghali's election as Secretary-General is accompanied by our firm commitment to extend to him our full support and active cooperation in the fulfilment of his duties as Secretary-General of the United Nations as it copes with the political, economic and social challenges of the coming decade.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 16, the extremely important item under which we elected His Excellency Mr. Boutros Ghali Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office starting on 1 January 1992 and ending on 31 December 1996. I should like once again to congratulate Mr. Boutros Ghali and to wish him every success. I should also like to thank all the members of the Assembly for their expressions of deep gratitude and congratulations to both Mr. Ghali and Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

The meeting was suspended at 11:40 a.m. and resumed at 12 noon.

AGENDA ITEMS 37 AND 102 (continued)

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

(a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID (A/46/22)

(b) REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP TO MONITOR THE SUPPLY AND SHIPPING OF OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO SOUTH AFRICA (A/46/44)

(c) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/499, A/46/507, A/46/648)

(d) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE (A/46/643)

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/46/561)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/46/L.25)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I should like to remind representatives that, in accordance with the decision taken yesterday morning, the list of speakers in the debate was closed today at 12 noon.

In accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at the 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, I call on the President of the African National Congress of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

Mr. MANDELA (African National Congress (ANC)): We would like to thank you most sincerely for giving us the opportunity to address this forty-sixth session of the General Assembly as it discusses the question of South Africa.

We say this because we are acutely aware and deeply appreciative of the role that this Organization has played since its foundation in the struggle for the emancipation of our people from the tyranny of racial oppression.

We meet here today shortly before the political formations of our country gather together in a Convention for a Democratic South Africa, to begin the process that will lead to the adoption of a democratic constitution.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

As our country starts on its final lap towards the realization of the goals enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Declaration on Human Rights and the Declaration on South Africa adopted by this Assembly two years ago this month, the leadership of the ANC thought that it was important that we should come back to New York to share with you our views on this subject.

Thanks to the joint efforts of our people and of the Governments and peoples represented here, South Africa has embarked on its own race to normality.

We can see rising on the horizon a new glorious entity which will no longer be spoken of as the pariah among the nations, the detestable example of what is impermissible in the ordering of human relations, the homeland of a crime against humanity.

We are beginning to see emerge a new country which, because it arrives so late at the festival of liberty, must surely value freedom like the apple of its eye and strive hardest to live up to the dream of all humanity throughout the ages for emancipation, prosperity, happiness and peace.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

We envision a South Africa which will, in all respects, belong to all who live in it, black and white. Its political life will be governed by a thoroughgoing democratic constitution, based on the principle of "one person", one vote", without any distinction on grounds of race, colour, gender or creed and without any element whatsoever of racial domination and discrimination. This will bring to its demise the present constitution of South Africa, which this Organization categorized as null and void.

We also want to see entrenched all the necessary provisions ensuring the fullest possible protection and advancement of the fundamental human rights of every South African citizen. As part of this, and to ensure the rule of law, there will have to be created an independent and non-racial judiciary, as visualized in earlier documents adopted by the General Assembly.

At the same time, the new South Africa will have to address the burning question of mass poverty, which afflicts millions of our people, especially the black population. Also to be dealt with as a matter of urgency are, of course, questions relating to the gross racial imbalances in the distribution of income, wealth, land and opportunity.

It is common knowledge among the majority of our people that the political settlement we seek to reach cannot survive very long if these questions relating to the standard of living of the people as a whole and the quality of life are not addressed.

That is why the issue of the growth of the economy and its restructuring to serve the needs of the entire population has to be an integral part of the process of the reconstruction of South Africa as a democratic, peaceful and stable country.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

The new South Africa will, of course, seek to normalize its relations with the rest of the world. In this context, we must make the point that we fully respect the position spelt out in the General Assembly consensus declaration on South Africa concerning the conditions that our country must meet in order to provide the basis for an internationally acceptable solution of the South African question and for its full integration among the community of nations.

Such integration would undoubtedly have to take full account of the fact that we are an integral part of the region of southern Africa and an integral part of the continent of Africa.

In a world in which regional associations of various kinds have become an important part of the system of international relations, the new South Africa will seek to bring whatever it can to the process of strengthening both the region of southern Africa and our continent as a whole.

But, of course, the reality is that we have not yet liberated our country. It is still ruled by a white minority regime, under an apartheid constitution. Therefore we are faced with the continuing challenge to pursue the struggle until freedom is won.

It has now been agreed that the "convention for a democratic South Africa", to which we have referred, should be held as of 20 December 1991. This will mark an important step forward in the process leading to a negotiated resolution of the political problems facing our country.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the convention will discuss such matters as the principles that will underlie the new constitution, the mechanism to draw up that constitution, an interim government that will take charge of the country until a new democratically elected government is formed, the

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

reincorporation of the Bantustans into South Africa, the time-frames for the transitional period as a whole, and the role of the international community.

As you can see, these are all very important matters, on which we will seek speedy decisions.

Of decisive importance to the work of the convention is the requirement that the ruling National Party should make a clear commitment that the decisions of the convention will be given legal force. Unless that is done, the convention will be no more than a mere talking-shop. Obviously this cannot be allowed.

In the aftermath of the conclusion of the work of the convention, we shall need to move as quickly as possible to establish the constitution-making body.

In our view, that should be an elected constituent assembly. Once established, we see no reason why that assembly should not conclude its work of drawing up the new constitution within the year.

Precisely because we have not as yet reached the goal of liberation towards which all of us have striven, we believe that there is need for continued international pressure to encourage speedy movement forward towards ending the system of apartheid. Sanctions therefore continue to be important.

At the same time, we believe that such sanctions should be lifted in phases corresponding to actual progress being achieved within South Africa. The two major phases ahead of us would be delineated by the establishment of the interim government and. secondly, the election of the new government in terms of a democratic constitution.

We would therefore urge this assembly and its Member States to handle the issue of sanctions in this manner. We are convinced that this is the best way to use this form of pressure to realize our common objective of securing a

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

speedy end to the system of apartheid. We appeal to you all to heed the voice of the oppressed on the matter, those who, after all, asked you to come to their assistance by imposing the sanctions.

It is also critically important that the international community should support the peaceful process leading to the democratic transformation of South Africa. We are pleased that the United Nations, as well as other internaticnal organizations, will be invited to send observers to the convention for a democratic Sc th Africa.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

This will put the peoples of the world in a better position to help determine the precise ways by which they can support the peace process in our country. The point, however, also needs to be made that this Organization, representing the nations of the world, has always taken a firm position as an opponent of apartheid in favour of the perspective spelled out in its own Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We would therefore expect that in whatever way it participates in this political process in South Africa, it will do so as a combatant for democracy, justice and peace.

In our quest for a democratic South Africa there have been discordant voices by some in our country, but we are confident that the people of South Africa are winning. Whether we like it or not, the victory of the people is assured, and those who have decided to sideline themselves by not being party to this process will themselves eventually be sidelined. We, however, as an organization are prepared to discuss with them the importance of a peaceful resolution of our problems, and we have no doubt that in taking this position, we hold views that are identical not only to those of the democratic forces in our country but also to those of democracies throughout the world.

The Assembly is also aware that in our quest to end the violence against the people, which has threatened to derail the peace process, various formations in our country, including the ANC, signed a National Peace Accord almost three months ago. This is a very important agreement and should contribute to the establishment of a climate free of violence and therefore conducive to free political activity.

We should like to take advantage of this occasion to reiterate the call we made when we signed the Peace Accord: that the international community

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

should take such measures as it deems fit to censure and sanction any organization in South Africa that by fomenting violence acts in a manner contrary to the purpose of the Accord. This will greatly facilitate the process of creating a climate free of violence, as visualized in the 1989 consensus Declaration on South Africa.

The new South Africa will also need to embark on an extensive programme of socio-economic trnasformation. This will be necessary both to address existing needs and to ensure the permanence of the democratic political outcome of the process of negotiations.

It will clearly be impossible for us to carry through this programme of socio-economic changes by relying exclusively on our own resources. We shall therefore require the support of the international community. This support should be seen as part of the completion of the task of ending the apartheid crime against humanity by helping us to dismantle the apartheid system and liquidate its destructive consequences. We would therefore urge this Organization to take the necessary decisions and make the relevant preparations to enable it to enter this area of activity as soon as the situation permits. We would argue that its direct intervention will be necessary as soon as we establish the interim government to which we have referred.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has had to intervene before, in accordance with an earlier agreement, to assist in the process of the repatriation of exiles. We are very pleased that the UNHCR has now set itself up in the country. We are also keenly interested in receiving help from UNHCR in resettling these returnees. This is going to require considerable resources, especially in the light of the

(Mr. Mandella, ANC)

fact that the overwhelming majority of returnees will have to be reintegrated in urban communities.

We therefore renew our appeal both to the Organization and to its Member States to extend generous assistance to the UNHCR to enable it to carry out this very sensitive humanitarian programme. In this regard, we hope that the UNHCR will receive such assistance from other agencies of the United Nations as it may need to enable it to carry out its tasks properly.

Democratic South Africa will rejoin the international community in a situation in which a new world order is being born. As this new order will of necessity have an impact on our own destiny, we cannot avoid commenting, however briefly, on what we believe it should be.

It is our view that this new world order should be characterized by, among other things: a democratic system of international relations; respect for the right of nations to self-determination and independence; respect for human rights; the elimination of poverty, deprivation and economic backwardness; an end to the practice of the resort to force to settle international disputes; protection of the environment; the strengthening and democratization of the institutions of this Organization to ensure that it plays its role as one of the principal architects of that new world order.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

The world is becoming ever more interdependent. What each one of us does as an independent nation impacts on others. We therefore have no choice but to build a system of relations which, while it guarantees such independence and seeks to exclude the possibility of one country's imposing its will on another, creates the possibility for each to have a meaningful say in how we should live together in one peaceful, stable, prosperous and free world.

This outcome cannot allow of a situation in which the form and the content of the new world order are decided by some and have to be accepted by the rest. If we proceed in this manner we will continue to build conflict and instability into the world order, however much we might describe it as new.

Equally, there can be no new world order while some are super-rich and others remain abysmally poor. Indeed, the very struggle for democracy and human rights throughout the world is made more difficult precisely by these levels of poverty.

Clearly, what might appear an almost superhuman effort has to be made to address the issue of gross imbalances in the world economy, which have resulted in such ills as negative growth rates for many countries, an onerous debt burden and declining standards of living.

The issue of disarmament and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction remains one of the important issues of the day. We therefore commend those countries concerned for progress that has been made in these areas and encourage them to register even more forward movement towards the final resolution of these questions.

In this regard, we would urge the International Atomic Energy Agency to move with all speed to inspect the nuclear installations in our country to ensure full observance of the provisions of the nuclear-non-proliferation Treaty.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

In the resolution of these and other questions there can be no doubt that this Organization must play a central role. To do so successfully it must become truly an instrument in the hands of all Member States, without any feeling that they are mere pawns.

The reality of the matter is that there is no institution other than this Organization, and its various organs, which can provide the means by which to build an equitable and stable world order. To play this role it must itself enjoy the support and respect of all States throughout the world and function effectively and efficiently.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Boutros Ghali on his election to the high post of Secretary-General of the United Nations and to wish him success in all his endeavours. On him will fall the task of leading the processes, which have begun, of placing this Organization on the sort of footing which will enable it to play the role we have been speaking of.

Permit me, Mr. President, in the name of the African National Congress, and on my own behalf, to pay a tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, for his sterling performance at the helm of this international body. His outstanding efforts in the search for world peace have contributed immensely to the realization of this world body's primary principles and purposes. We are also highly gratified by the role he has played in assisting us in our search for peace in South Africa. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

We would urge that everything be done as quickly as possible, in the context of the decisions of this Organization and the Organization of African Unity, to carry out the measures that are necessary to resolve the conflict in Western Sahara.

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

Equally, we salute all those who have been, and are, involved in the process of searching for a negotiated, just and stable peace in the Middle East, an important element of which is recognition of, and respect for, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We wish them speedy movement forward in the effort to reach a comprehensive settlement.

We also wish the people of Cambodia success in their own efforts, supported by the United Nations, to bring to a close a dark chapter in their history, during which millions of innocent people have been butchered like wild beasts.

We look forward to the resolution of other conflicts in the world - those in Afghanistan, Cyprus, East Timor and elsewhere. We hope that this Organization will play its historic role of peacemaker to help resolve these and other conflicts.

We are taking the final steps towards ending the apartheid system of white minority domination. Acting together, we have the possibility of bringing into being a new country which representatives will be proud and happy to readmit into the ranks of this Assembly.

As we have done in the past, let us continue to act in concert so that we may achieve our common purpose as quickly as possible. Through our common victory over the apartheid system in South Africa, we will also strike an important blow against racism in general, which seems to be raising its ugly head in other parts of the world as well.

By its involvement in the struggle to liberate our people, the Organization has not only been true to the purposes for which it was founded; it will thereby also help to build a new country, which will make its own

(Mr. Mandela, ANC)

contribution to the creation of a new world order of equality among the nations, the defence of human rights, development and prosperity for all, peace and stability.

We thank all representatives for the contribution they have made to bringing our country and people to where we are today. We count on their continued support and involvement until our common victory has been achieved.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.